

SUMMARY OF POLLING ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Americans are worried about retirement and Social Security:

- Across party lines, 75% say that the nation faces a retirement crisis.¹
- The majority believe they can't achieve financial security in retirement, with millennials (72%) the most concerned.¹
- 70% say the average worker cannot save enough for retirement.²
- Most don't think the new tax law is helping them save for retirement.¹
- Only 25% feel they have saved enough for retirement, 46% are unprepared.³
- From Gallup, "Social Security ranked fourth in importance to Americans out of a list of 12 possible priorities for the president and Congress to deal with, behind only education, healthcare and the economy. This put it ahead of other issues dominating the political discourse today, including immigration, climate change and income inequality."³

Current retirees rely on Social Security as major source of retirement income:

- Gallup research shows that older Americans are "extraordinarily dependent" on Social Security. Some 57% of retirees indicated that Social Security is a "major" source of income in their retirement. Gallup has found similar results since 2002.²

Majority of working Americans willing to pay more to preserve Social Security:

- More than half agree that the government needs to increase Social Security contributions (FICA) from both employers and workers.¹
- 77% (84% D, 69% R) say it's critical to preserve Social Security benefits for future generations even if that means increasing Social Security taxes paid by working Americans; 83% agree if it means raising taxes paid by top earners.⁴
- Majorities of all ages agree that it is beneficial to pay more into Social Security now in order to protect benefits for future generations.⁵
- 58% of those expressing a view would prefer to raise taxes to strengthen Social Security.²

Majority of Americans favor increase in Social Security benefits and opposes cuts:

- 74% say Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way.⁶
- 91% (including 86% of Rs and 95% of Ds) said they want to maintain or increase spending on SS; only 6% want to cut it.⁷
- The majority favor a proposal to increase SS benefits.⁸
- Majority oppose the proposal to "raise retirement age to 69".⁸
- 60% of Americans would prefer to reverse the 2017 tax bill rather than cut entitlement programs like Social Security if necessary to reduce the deficit.⁹

Majority of Americans favor increasing benefits and having wealthy pay same as everyone else:

- 79% favor a proposal to "increase SS benefits and pay for the increase by having wealthy Americans pay the same rate into SS as everyone else."⁸
- Majorities of all ages, genders, races, and political affiliations support expanding Social Security by asking millionaires and billionaires to pay more into the system.¹⁰

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- ¹ <https://www.nirsonline.org/reports/retirement-insecurity-2019-americans-views-of-the-retirement-crisis/>
 - ² <https://news.gallup.com/poll/258320/nonretired-americans-expect-comfortable-retirement.aspx>
 - ³ <https://news.gallup.com/opinion/polling-matters/258335/social-security-american-public-opinion.aspx>
 - ⁴ <https://www.nasi.org/research/2014/report-americans-make-hard-choices-social-security-survey-tr>
 - ⁵ <https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/economics/info-2015/social-security-80th-anniversary-report.html>
 - ⁶ <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/03/21/retirement-social-security-and-long-term-care/>
 - ⁷ <https://www.people-press.org/2017/04/24/with-budget-debate-looming-growing-share-of-public-prefers-bigger-government/10-10/>
 - ⁸ <https://www.ncpssm.org/documents/social-security-policy-papers/social-security-reform-act-of-2016/>
 - ⁹ https://www.businessinsider.com/poll-medicare-medicaid-social-security-cuts-vs-gop-tax-law-hike-2018-10?utm_source=link_news9&utm_campaign=item_258335&utm_medium=copy
 - ¹⁰ <https://socialsecurityworks.org/2016/10/26/new-polling-americans-are-united-in-support-of-expanding-social-security/>